

## **ONLINE CLASS: A PARADIGM SHIFT FROM TRADITIONAL CLASSROOM METHOD TO VIRTUAL PLATFORM.**

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### **Abstract**

In this pandemic era, many countries all over the world started a new way of transferring information into their school children which is none other than online class. Many states in India started their school classes through online. For example in Kerala, the Education Department started the online classes officially in the name of 'First Bell' through 'Victors' channel. Earlier television and mobile phones was not a necessary thing for study purpose and Activity Based Learning (ABL) method is following in schools. But nowadays, the teaching – learning process is completely transformed into online platform. So in this paper, I would like to examine the relevance of online classes and their prospects and consequences in Kerala State with the special reference of Activity Based Learning.

### **KEY WORDS**

ABL (Activity Based Learning), First Bell, ICT (Information and Communication Technology), KITE – Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education, VICTORS

### **1. INTRODUCTION**

In 2019 December 31<sup>st</sup>, a new virus which was started to spread and began to make serious health issues to human beings in China at Vuhan. Yes, the so called Corona virus or 'Covid 19' became a threat to humanity and the World Health Organization (WHO) declared it as a pandemic on June 30, 2020. In connection with this, 'health emergency' was declared all over the world. Still the humanity is stood stunned against the Corona Virus for its control, spreading, eradication and the medicine for its prevention. Moreover the number of deceased people and death rate also increasing rapidly.

In these circumstances, the measures which are taken by the health department and Kerala Government become globally accepted. Yes, the 'Kerala Model' is really acceptable. When the disease started from Vuhan, may not be expected to become a global threat by health people or even WHO. Now the situation is really pathetic and uncontrollable. World leading countries like America and others stood stunned against the disease and people all over the world became panic. In these circumstances the Government of India declared complete lock down. Politically different in opinions, both ruling and opposition parties held together along with the health workers and layman. They worked shoulder to shoulders to implement 'Break the Chain' effectively. People widely

accepted the strict instruction of the health authorities as 'Social distancing'. The functioning of schools, factories, Public functions, social gatherings etc. was completely locked. Educational agencies like CBSE was abandon some of their examinations.

In this particular scenario, education department and teachers were thought about the possibilities of virtual platform for schooling. The covid lock-down may be everlasting and, the students would not be with schools and books. So they aimed to get a chance to the students as well as the teachers. They started online classes officially during the month of June.

## **2. DISCUSSION**

Under the guidance of Educational Department of Kerala, Kerala Infrastructure and Technology for Education (KITE) started online classes through Victers channel with the name of 'First Bell' on 1<sup>st</sup> June onwards. It is an interim arrangement for regular classes for the students of standard 1 to 12. It may be the first initial step of state in the country on its manner. The classes are going on effectively on day time. Efficient teachers and educational experts are dealing classes just like school hours. It helps the learners to avoid a situation of sitting alone in their houses. Through this, students are there in a learning mood and they follow the instructions of their class teacher and concerned teachers. Almost all schools started whats app and broadcast groups to give proper guidelines to their students. Moreover majority of the schools started online classes simultaneously with victors first Bell classes for their individual instructions and attentions. They are very effective to the learners and the students are getting an atmosphere for learning without school platform. The teachers conduct revision classes and online test series through google form. The online classes help the students and teachers to create the atmosphere of classroom without the help of the four walls. The virtual platform creates such a school premise and helps students to avoid the anxieties of covid lock down and its impacts.

The major highlight of the system is the involvement of the parents. We have the concept of teachers are the second parents for the children. But in this system, the role of parents is like teachers. Teachers could only get the attendance of the students but the parents can monitor students and help them in studies. They should alert whether the students are engaging in learning activities or not. Apart from teaching-learning process, there are few more involvements in virtual platform. The major thing is online class PTA (Parent Teacher Association). The teachers can conduct online class PTA's to discuss and evaluate the performance of the students with parents. Along with class teachers, the subject teachers may also participate in this meeting. Parents share their opinions and anxieties with the class teacher as well as with the concerned teachers. The co-curricular and extracurricular activities like Independence day celebration, Gandhi Jayanthi, Onam, Deepavali and the special celebrations like Teachers' day, Student's day, Children's day etc. were celebrated through online.

While discussing the positive aspects of online classes, of course there are some limitations too. While taking classes through online, the teachers may fail to get the individual attention of the students. Students as well as teachers face the network issues. Earlier parents restricted the over use of television and mobile phones, but now it's an essential thing in teaching-learning process. It may create serious health issues. The students are engaging with some unwanted messages and extraneous discussions. They may engage in games like PUBJI. The evaluation process is limited, often

online class: a paradigm shift from traditional classroom method to virtual platform.

objective type or multiple choice questions are possible. Short answer and essay type questions may take time consuming and teachers find difficulty in evaluation through the mini screen. Students loose their thinking capacity and they may largely depend the agencies like Google to find the solutions and answers. In a classroom process learners may involve classroom activities such as group discussions, debates, seminars etc. They use their imagination, creatively and ideas in apt and adequate situations.

### **3. CONCLUSION**

Nowadays ICT (Information and Communication Technology) plays an important role in the area of teaching learning process. Many machines and gadgets are using in the digital classroom. Laptop, Projector, Flash drives etc. are examples. These electronic devices are essential and make the teaching morel lively and effectively. Though ABL (Activity Based Learning) is the methodology in school curriculum, the teacher and class room have a major role in the effectiveness of transforming information.

Put plainly, the online classes are not substituting real classrooms, but they created a classroom atmosphere and made students not deviated from the learning process. While concluding the article, let us hope for the best as the opening of the schools in first of November on wards.

### **REFERENCE**

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